

Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable – Powys County Council

Quarterly Update: 31 March 2023

Annual Audit Summary

| Description | Timetable | Status |
|--|------------|--------------------------|
| A report summarising completed audit work since the last Annual Audit Summary, which was issued in March 2023. | March 2023 | <u>Issued March 2023</u> |

Financial Audit work

| Description | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Audit of the Council's 2021-22 statement of accounts | The Auditor General provided a true and fair opinion on the Council's 2021-22 Statement of Accounts on 25 January 2023. | Timetable extended to 31 January 2023. | Audit Completed 25 January 2023. |

| Description | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| Certification of Grant Claims | <p>The Auditor General is required to certify a number of grant claims on behalf of various grant paying bodies. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NNDR • Housing Benefit • Teachers' Pensions | 30 November 2022 | Completed January 2023 February 2023 May 2023 |
| Audit of the Council's 2022-23 statement of accounts – Outline Audit Plan | <p>The Outline Audit plan specifies the Auditor General's statutory responsibilities. It also sets out details of the audit team and key dates for delivering the work and planned audit outputs.</p> | March 2023 | Issued March 2023 |
| Audit of Powys Pension Fund's 2022-23 statement of accounts – Outline Audit Plan | <p>The Outline Audit plan specifies the Auditor General's statutory responsibilities. It also sets out details of the audit team and key dates for delivering the work and planned audit outputs.</p> | March 2023 | Issued March 2023 |

Performance Audit work

| 2021-22 Performance Audit Work | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>Springing Forward – Examining the building blocks for a sustainable future</p> | <p>As the world moves forward, learning from the global pandemic, this review looks at how effectively councils are strengthening their ability to transform, adapt and maintain the delivery of services, including those delivered in partnership with key stakeholders and communities.</p> | <p>Assets Report due June 2023</p> | <p>Assets Report in Draft</p> |
| <p>Review of Planning Services</p> | <p>Through the review we will seek to gain an insight into the Council's Planning Service. We will have regard to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Planning Service and the extent to which the Council is acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle in delivering the Service.</p> | <p>Complete</p> | <p><u>Report published May 2023</u></p> |

| 2021-22 Performance Audit Work | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|--|
| Assurance and Risk Assessment | <p>Project to identify the level of audit assurance and/or where further audit work may be required in future years in relation to risks to the Council putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources.</p> <p>At Powys County Council the project is likely to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial position • Self-assessment arrangements • Recovery planning • Implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act • Carbon reduction plans | Complete | <u>Report published April 2023</u> |

| 2022-23 Performance audit work | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Assurance and Risk Assessment | <p>Project to identify the level of audit assurance and/or where further audit work may be required in future years in relation to risks to the Council putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources and acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial position • Capital programme management • Use of performance information – with a focus on service user feedback and outcomes • Setting of well-being objectives | <p>Ongoing monitoring of financial position</p> <p>April – September 2023</p> <p>February – September 2023</p> <p>March – June 2023</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Scoping</p> <p>In progress – fieldwork is being scheduled at each council between March and August 2023</p> <p>Drafting</p> |

| 2022-23 Performance audit work | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| Thematic Review – Unscheduled Care | A cross-sector review focusing on the flow of patients out of hospital. This review will consider how the Council is working with its partners to address the risks associated with the provision of social care to support hospital discharge, as well as prevent hospital admission. The work will also consider what steps are being taken to provide medium to longer-term solutions. | August 2022 – June 2023 | Fieldwork nearing completion, reporting from April 2023 onwards. |
| Thematic review – Digital | A review of councils' strategic approach to digital, and the extent to which this has been developed in accordance with the sustainable development principle; and that it will help to secure value for money in the use of councils' resources. | January – September. | In progress – fieldwork is being scheduled at each council between March and August 2023. |
| Scrutiny Follow-up Progress Review | This project will explore whether the recommendations from our previous Scrutiny Follow-up have been implemented. | Spring 2023 | Scoping |

Local government national studies planned/in progress

| Study | Scope | Timetable | Status | Fieldwork planned at Powys County Council |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Building Social Resilience and Self reliance | Review of how local authorities can build greater resilience in communities | Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022 | <u>Published January 2023</u> | |
| Building safety | Review of how well local authorities are delivering their responsibilities for building safety | September 2022 – August 2023 | Evidence gathering – fieldwork underway | Yes – interview with nominated officer at the Council and survey. |
| Planning for sustainable development – Brownfield regeneration | Review of how local authorities are promoting and enabling better use of vacant non-domestic dwellings and brownfield sites | October 2022 – September 2023 | Evidence gathering – fieldwork underway | Yes – interview with nominated officer at seven councils and survey. |
| Governance of special purpose authorities – National Parks | Review of systems and effectiveness of governance | November 2022 – September 2023 | Evidence gathering – fieldwork underway | No |

| Study | Scope | Timetable | Status | Fieldwork planned at Powys County Council |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) | Assessing CJCs' progress in developing their arrangements to meet their statutory obligations and the Welsh Government's aim of strengthening regional collaboration. | September 2022 – June 2023 | Draft report has been issued to the four CJCs. Report due to be published May/June. | Yes – We explored the Council's perspective via our routine liaison meetings. Fieldwork included interviews with the chief executive, director of finance and chair of each of the four CJCs. |

Estyn

Our link inspectors are continuing to work with Torfaen as part of our follow-up process for an authority causing significant concern. Wrexham local authority is still in a causing concern category and we convened a progress conference in December to look specifically at the school improvement recommendation. We are proposing to re-visit Wrexham in the summer term. We will convene an improvement conference in Powys in May to consider aspects of their work on school improvement, the transformation agenda and financial management in schools. We contributed to risk and assurance workshops in conjunction with Audit Wales and CIW in all local authorities during the spring term. We inspected Blaenau Gwent in December, and the report was published on 10 February. We inspected Rhondda Cynon Taf in January, and the report will be published on 31 March.

Field work being carried out across local authorities during the spring term includes a focus on elective home education, support for ALN reform and joint visits with colleagues from the Welsh Government to evaluate the work of local authorities regarding the support they provide to deliver national digital strategies.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

| CIW planned work 2022-23 | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|--------------------------|---|------------|---------------------------|
| Programme 2022-23 | We will publish our amended Code of Practice for the review of local authority social services in April 2023. | April 2023 | Preparing for publication |

| CIW planned work 2022-23 | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------|
| Joint work | We are finalising our thematic reviews programme of work for 2023-2026. Areas for consideration include, adult safeguarding, carers, CLDT and CAMHS. | Current | In progress |
| | We continue to work with partners, sharing information and intelligence including completing joint reviews. | Current | In progress |
| | We are working in collaboration with HIW for a national review of the stroke pathway. A national report will be published early summer. | Current | In progress |
| | We continue to work in collaboration with HIW in conducting CMHT inspections. | Current | In progress |
| | CIW is working with partners to complete a rapid review. The overarching objective of the rapid review is to determine to what extent the current structures and processes in Wales ensure children who are in need of care, support and protection are appropriately placed on, and removed from, the Child Protection Register, when sufficient evidence indicates it is safe to do so. This is a collaborative review. | January 2023 – June 2023 | In progress |

| CIW planned work 2022-23 | Scope | Timetable | Status |
|---|---|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2021-22 | The 2020-21 report was published on 7 February 2021 | Published | Published |
| National review of Care Planning for children and young people subject to the Public Law Outline pre-proceedings | <p>Purpose of the review</p> <p>To provide external scrutiny, assurance and to promote improvement regarding the quality of practice in relation to the care planning for children and young people subject to the public law outline pre-proceedings.</p> <p>To consider the extent to which practice has progressed since the publication of both the CIW 'National Review of care planning for children and young people subject to public law outline pre proceedings' and the publication of the PLO working group report 2021 including best practice guidance.</p> | September 2022 – Spring 2023 | Delivery |
| Joint Inspection Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA) | <p>Cross-inspectorate approach. Areas to be determined. We will complete a further four multi-agency joint inspections in total. Each local authority will have a published letter post inspection.</p> <p>We will publish a national report in late 2023.</p> | Autumn 2022 – late spring 2023 | Delivery |

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs published since January 2022

| Report title | Publication date and link to report |
|---|--|
| Digital inclusion in Wales (including key questions for public bodies) | March 2023 |
| Orthopaedic Services in Wales – Tackling the Waiting List Backlog | March 2023 |
| Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board – Review of Board Effectiveness | February 2023 |
| Welsh Government purchase of Gilestone Farm | January 2023 |
| Together we can – Community resilience and self-reliance | January 2023 |
| A Picture of Flood Risk Management | December 2022 |
| 'A missed opportunity' – Social Enterprises | December 2022 |
| Poverty Data Tool | November 2022 |
| 'Time for change' – Poverty in Wales | November 2022 |
| Learning from cyber-attacks | October 2022 (distributed privately to audited bodies) |
| National Fraud Initiative 2020-21 | October 2022 |

| Report title | Publication date and link to report |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| COVID-19 business support in 2020-21 – Memorandum for the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee | October 2022 |
| Payment to the Welsh Government’s Former Permanent Secretary on Termination of Employment | September 2022 |
| Equality Impact Assessments: More than a Tick Box Exercise? | September 2022 |
| Welsh Government – setting of well-being objectives | September 2022 |
| Welsh Government workforce planning and management | September 2022 |
| NHS Wales Finances Data Tool – up to March 2022 | August 2022 |
| Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030: Evidence Report | August 2022 |
| Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 | July 2022 |
| Sustainable Tourism in Wales’ National Parks | July 2022 |
| Third Sector COVID-19 Response Fund – Memorandum for the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee | July 2022 |

| Report title | Publication date and link to report |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The Welsh Community Care Information System – update and data tool | July 2022 |
| Tackling the Planned Care Backlog in Wales – and waiting times data tool | May 2022 |
| The new Curriculum for Wales | May 2022 |
| Unscheduled care – data tool and commentary | April 2022 |
| Direct Payments for Adult Social Care | April 2022 |
| Local Government Financial Sustainability data tool | February 2022 |
| Joint Working Between Emergency Services (including data tool) | January 2022 |

Audit Wales national reports and other outputs (work in progress/planned)¹

| Title | Indicative publication date |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NHS quality governance | May/June 2023 |

¹ We will continue to keep our plans under constant review, taking account of the evolving external environment, our audit priorities, the context of our own resourcing and the capacity of audited bodies to engage with us. Our Annual Plan 2023-24 will confirm plans for new work in other topic areas and we will update this list accordingly at the next quarterly update.

| Title | Indicative publication date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Local Government Financial Sustainability Data tool update | April 2023 |
| Springing Forward: Managing assets and workforce in local government | May/June 2023 |
| NHS workforce planning (data briefing) | May/June 2023 |
| Maximising EU funding | May/June 2023 |
| Covering teachers' absence – follow-up | July 2023 |
| NHS finances data tool – to 31 March 2023 | July/August 2023 |
| Net zero (pan UK overview) | August/September 2023 |
| Ukrainian refugee services | September 2023 |
| Local government digital strategy review – national summary | October 2023 |
| Local government use of performance information, outcomes and service user perspective – national summary | October 2023 |
| Affordable housing | January/February 2024 |
| Local government capital programme management – national summary | To be confirmed |

| Title | Indicative publication date |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Active travel | To be confirmed |
| Cancer services | To be confirmed |

Good Practice Exchange events and resources

| Title | Link to resource |
|--|--|
| <p>Tackling poverty in Wales: responding to the challenge – this shared learning event brought people together from across public services to share ideas, learning and knowledge on how organisations can respond to the challenges caused by poverty. We shared examples of approaches being taken by organisations within Wales and across the UK.</p> | <p><u>Tackling poverty resources</u></p> |
| <p>Making Equality Impact Assessments more than a tick box exercise: This shared learning event aims to assist public bodies to improve use and application of EIAs beyond an exercise in compliance by bringing people together from across public services to share ideas, learning and knowledge.</p> | <p><u>Making Equality Impact Assessments more than a tick box exercise resources</u></p> |

| Title | Link to resource |
|---|--|
| <p>Together we can – creating the conditions to empower our communities to thrive: This shared learning event will bring people together from across public services to share ideas, learning and knowledge. We will share the findings of our reports on social enterprises and community resilience, including our recommendations going forward.</p> | <p>19 April 2023 – 9 am – 1 pm – Cardiff. To register, please complete our booking form.</p> |
| <p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: Inspired by the Football Association of Wales journey over the past decade, this event will examine and discuss how going beyond expectations creates an inclusive and positive attitude that becomes self-fulfilling.</p> <p>Working in partnership with the Future Generations Commissioner and the Welsh Language Commissioner, this event will assist and inspire public bodies, and the third sector to embrace the cultural diversity of modern Wales and work beyond compliance and into excellence.</p> | <p>To register, please complete our booking form.</p> |

Recent Audit Wales blogs

| Title | Publication date |
|---|-------------------------|
| <p>Helping people to help themselves</p> | <p>15 February 2023</p> |
| <p>A perfect storm – the cost of living crisis and domestic abuse</p> | <p>21 November 2022</p> |

| Title | Publication date |
|--|-------------------|
| <u>Tackling poverty means tackling poverty data</u> | 11 November 2022 |
| <u>Cost of living and putting away the bayonet</u> | 21 September 2022 |
| <u>Heat is on to tackle Climate Change</u> | 18 August 2022 |
| <u>Direct Payments in Wales</u> | 15 June 2022 |
| <u>Unscheduled Care in Wales – a system under real pressure</u> | 21 April 2022 |
| <u>Skills Competition Wales</u> | 18 February 2022 |
| <u>Cyber resilience – one year on</u> | 9 February 2022 |
| <u>Helping to tell the story through numbers</u> (Local government financial sustainability data tool) | 3 February 2022 |
| <u>Call for clearer information on climate change spending</u> | 2 February 2022 |
| <u>Actions speak louder than words</u> (Building social resilience and self-reliance in citizens and communities) | 14 January 2022 |